

Applic. No.: 09/923,696

Amdt. Dated July 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 23, 2004

MARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-26 remain in the application.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3, 6, 9, 16-18, 21, and 26 have been rejected as being anticipated by Koguchi et al. (US Pat. No. 6,082,263) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on page 3-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 4 and 19 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Koguchi et al. in view of Nussel et al. (US Pat. No. 5,317,970) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); claims 5, 15, 20, and 25 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Koguchi et al. in view of Gydesen (US Pat. No. 5,644,986) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); claim 13 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Koguchi et al. in view of Nussel et al. and further in view of Shin et al. (US Pat. No. 6,148,728) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); claims 7-8, 10-12, 14, and 22-24 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Koguchi et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

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As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1-2 call for, inter alia:

treating the printing form with a fluid clearing medium in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claim 3 calls for, inter alia:

treating the printing form with a liquid clearing medium in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claim 4 calls for, inter alia:

treating the printing form with a gaseous clearing medium in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claims 16-17 and 26 call for, inter alia:

a device for applying fluid clearing medium to the printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

The Examiner has incorrectly stated that Koguchi et al. teach a device for clearing a re-imageable printing form with a

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fluid clearing medium, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of a printing form (citing column 4, lines 57-61 of Koguchi et al.).

However, contrary to the Examiner's statement, it is disclosed in the cited passage of Koguchi et al. to restore a printing plate to the state where it bears thereon no image by uniform exposure of the printing plate to active light after being cleaned of ink. Clearly, the teaching of Koguchi et al. is not to treat a printing form with a fluid, liquid, or gaseous clearing medium in non-abrasive manner, thereby irreversibly clearing all image information, but to use active light for clearing a printing plate. It is known to a person skilled in the art that active light is not a fluid, liquid, or gaseous clearing medium.

Clearly, Koguchi et al. do not show a method or device in which the printing form is treated with a fluid, liquid, or gaseous clearing medium in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of a printing form, as recited in the independent claims of the instant application.

Claims 1-4, 16-17, and 26 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims

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are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 4, and 16, they are believed to be patentable as well.

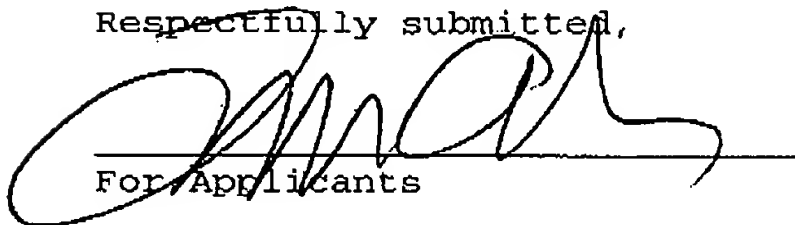
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

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Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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